

# Strike finds miners prepared

By Paul McGrath  
Chicago Sun-Times

BENTON, Ill. — It was almost closing time at the Engert Cafe on the main square when the door opened and the last two customers of the day, Elmo Heaton and his wife, Geneva, came in for dinner.

"Spence, we're going to have a two-day strike," Elmo called out cheerfully to the lone man sitting at the counter. Spence turned, not so cheerfully, shook his head and said, "at least 10 days. The mines are going to be closed at least 10 days. It takes that long to get a ratification."

"No," Elmo insisted. "I just talked to

## Insight

them, and it's going to be a two-day strike, and then it's going to be \$108 a day — \$108 a day."

Everybody laughed. Elmo kept it up. "How long you been working in the mines, Spence?" he asked.

"Twenty-seven years."

Spence had bitten on an old joke around here.

"Well, you're old enough to have black lung," he was told. Another chuckle.

Benton is the seat of Franklin County,

at the southern tip of Illinois, 332 miles south of Chicago and 70 miles southeast of St. Louis in the heart of the Illinois coal country. The only sizable industry here is the coal mines, and the 6,833 citizens of Benton have been getting ready all summer for the coal strike they knew was coming.

The contract between the United Mine Workers and the Bituminous Coal Operators Assn., which bargains for the coal industry, expired at 12:01 a.m. today.

For the first time, under the reform leadership of Arnold Miller, the rank-and-file miners will have a chance to vote on accepting or rejecting the new contract. But the involved ratification

procedure cannot be completed in less than 10 days, so the strike will last at least that long.

But the long-awaited strike came even sooner to Benton. Because Monday was a holiday for Illinois miners, the strike started here after the last shift at the mines Saturday night. The coming of the strike coincided with the arrival of the quail-hunting season and a tawny fall day.

A 50-year-old miner, who started in the mines April 2, 1948, joined the conversation in the cafe.

"I think it's going to last three weeks or a month," he said in his Southern Illinois drawl. "They may just vote it down the first round, and I think they

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will. They think they can get more out of the coal companies, and they don't want to take their first offer."

He paused to be sure his name wasn't going to be in the paper, because even now, 84 years after the bloody fights to start the union, he feared his company would retaliate against him for some remark he might make.

"I'd like a two-week strike," said the miner. "A two-week strike would be all right, with the hunting season coming in and all, but I think it's going to be three weeks or a month."

There is a lot of concern in town for the younger miners. The older men say they are in debt for cars, trailers and homes and don't save enough money.

For years there were no young miners in Benton, because with mechanization of the mines and lessening demand for coal, the mines were laying off. Now there are young miners, and there will be more,

because, at least two and possibly as many as eight new mines will be opened in the area soon.

"The mines have older men and younger men, and they don't see eye to eye," said the miner. "The older men want fringe benefits, and the younger men want more money in their checks. I make enough money myself. I make \$47.65 for an eight-hour day, but I'd like to have a better pension — \$150 a month isn't enough. I'd like to have dental care, some more time off."

"But I ain't a-quitting till 65. It's too good a money."

Spearheaded by the miners, Benton is a union town. There are only two signs in the Engert Cafe. One says it serves Ronnoco Coffee, and the other indicates the employees are members of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Bartenders International Union, AFL-CIO.

In Sherman's clothing store on the (See MINERS, page 16)

# Columbia Missourian

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## Too foul for fowl

After waiting nearly a week for perfect hunting weather, Columbia sportsman Pat Shy slipped up to this pond near Ashland only to find missing the ducks he had spotted earlier. The cold, wet weather mid-Missouri has had lately apparently drove the fowl to warmer areas. (Missourian photo by Lee Metcalf)

## School board to ask for bond referendum

By John Bennett and Pat Underwood  
Missourian staff writers

Sometime this school year Columbia voters will be asked to approve another school bond referendum to finance expansion of school facilities, Superintendent Robert Shaw told the Board of Education Monday night.

Shaw said did not know at this time how much money would be needed nor when the bond election would be held.

Shaw said construction programs would include continued expansion of Rock Bridge Senior High School, remodeling of older school buildings and expansion of transportation and vocational facilities.

He said an "important ingredient" of the construction program in progress is the completion of 24 classrooms in the west wing of the Rock Bridge school. He said eight classrooms would be ready by next September.

The Douglass and Field schools, Shaw said, should receive first priority in remodeling. The windows need work in the two schools which were built in 1916 and there are lighting, heating and blackboard problems.

"We have to completely redo the Douglass and Field schools," he said. In other business, the board put off clarification of school property use by the Columbia-National Education Association (CNEA) until the board's December meeting.

The board asked Shaw to review policies on teachers' organizations.

The CNEA was formed in the spring when the Missouri State Teachers Association (MSTA) was disaffiliated by the National Education Association. The CNEA is affiliated with the NEA. However, the school board does not recognize the CNEA as the representative of the Columbia teachers.

A representative of the CNEA, Larry Abernathy, had requested the clarification last month in a letter to the board. Shaw then requested a legal opinion from Larry Woods, a local attorney.

Abernathy requested clarification of these areas: permission for CNEA members to attend state conventions, use of faculty message boxes, bulletin boards, and use of inter-campus mail and school duplicating machines for CNEA business.

Woods said in his opinion the CNEA could use the message boxes and bulletin boards for CNEA use other than for soliciting members. However, inter-campus mail and duplicating machines are costs to the school district, so they cannot be used by the CNEA.

He also said any correspondence with the CNEA as a group would be against school policy. Under current policy, school officials can recognize only one teachers' representative. The (See DECISION, page 10)

## Hindman to act as city judge

By Debby Gossen  
Missourian staff writer

Darwin A. Hindman will replace Cullen Cline as temporary municipal judge today following his appointment by the City Council at a special meeting Monday night.

City Counselor Robert Roper said the appointment would be effective immediately. "He will be in court tomorrow (today)," Roper said Monday night.

Hindman said he has no plans to implement changes in the office because he "didn't really know for sure" he would be named. He said he indicated his willingness to serve because "I just felt that it was something that had to be done."

Hindman has a law office at 16 N.

Ninth St. and teaches law part-time at the University. A native Columbian, he attended University High School and was graduated from the University School of Law.

He will serve as acting municipal judge until the question of the fitness of

For related news on council actions, see page 10.

Roger D. Hines to serve is decided by the Missouri Commission on the Retirement, Removal and Discipline of Judges.

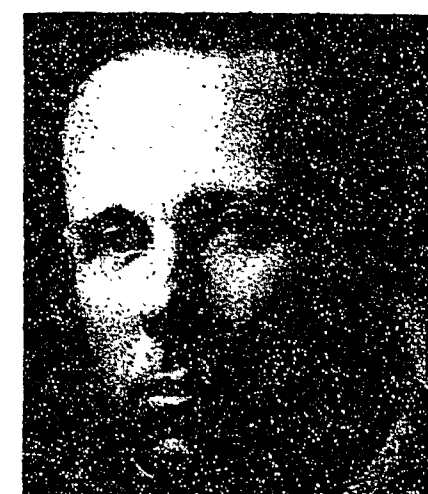
Cline was appointed temporary municipal judge Sept. 16 when the council suspended Hines from the bench.

On Oct. 14 Cline asked to be relieved of the position as soon as a replacement

could be found. Cline said at that time he wanted to devote his "full energies" to his private criminal law practice. Cline, 35, is a member of the Butcher, Marshall and O'Gara law firm.

Hines' suspension followed the council's review of a report from Roper charging Hines with misuse of his judicial office and obstruction of justice by intimidation of a witness. Hines was convicted of common assault in Boone County Circuit Court Aug. 22. He has appealed the conviction.

On Oct. 15, the second day of the public hearing into the Hines matter, the council rescinded its suspension, and Hines voluntarily suspended himself from the bench, leaving the final decision on his fitness for office in the hands of the state judicial commission and the Missouri Supreme Court.



Darwin A. Hindman  
Acting municipal judge

## Jury hears tapes leading to resignation

N. Y. Times Service

WASHINGTON — Parts of the three White House tape recordings that led to Richard M. Nixon's resignation from the presidency were played Monday to the jury in the Watergate cover-up trial.

Out of the presence of the jury but in open court, the chief prosecutor, James F. Nease, said the tapes and the other evidence prove "a direct agency" in which Nixon's "agents" obstructed justice at his order.

In another development, Judge John J. Sirica denied mistrial motions by defendants John N. Mitchell and Kenneth Wells Parkinson. They had contended that their cases had been prejudiced by the government's surprise disclosure last week that a government witness, William O. Bittman, had withheld and lied about a crucial memorandum.

The tapes, made public last Aug. 5, contain Nixon's conversations with H. R. Haldeman, then his White House chief of staff and now one of the five defendants in the trial, on June 23, 1972, six days after the Watergate break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex.

They show Nixon telling Haldeman to direct officials of the Central Intelligence Agency to tell the head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to limit its inquiry into the break-in. They show that Nixon wanted the curtailment for political reasons rather than concern over national security.

The tapes, often faint and sometimes difficult to hear, were played in conjunction with testimony by Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, deputy director of the CIA and L. Patrick Gray III, then acting head of the FBI.

Walters testified to receiving the directive from Haldeman, in the

presence of John D. Ehrlichman, then the White House adviser on domestic affairs and now another defendant, and passing it on to Gray; Gray told of receiving it.

When a defense lawyer objected to the prosecution's line of questioning, Nease, replied:

"There's no other way you can show the agency — from the former President of the United States to Haldeman and Ehrlichman to Walters to Gray — and this is the obstruction (of justice)."

"It's the act itself," he added. After a recess, the questioning was allowed to proceed the way Nease wished.

Nixon, who was named an unindicted co-conspirator in the case last March, was pardoned by President Ford on Sept. 8 for any federal crimes he may have committed while in office. Nixon has been subpoenaed by the prosecution and defense but whether he

testifies depends on his health.

The other defendants are all former Nixon campaign or White House aides: Mitchell, the former attorney general and director of the Nixon re-election campaign; Robert C. Mardian, a former assistant attorney general and political coordinator for the Committee to Re-elect the President; and Parkinson, an attorney hired by the committee after the Watergate break-in.

Haldeman and Ehrlichman have made clear that they will attempt to shift the blame for the Watergate cover-up to Nixon. Ehrlichman's chief lawyer, William S. Frates, told the jury in his opening statement that Nixon had "deceived" and "misled" Ehrlichman.

The testimony Monday by Walters and Gray was largely familiar, a repeat of what has come out before as the Watergate affair unraveled in the (See GRAY, page 16)